

# Terrorist attacks are becoming almost daily events. They're also becoming deadlier.

Since peaking in 1987, the number of terrorist incidents has gone down.

But the number of victims has gone up.<sup>1</sup>

In the Bali nightclub bombing, 187 innocents died. Some 53 perished in two suicide bombings in Saudi Arabia. And the September 11 attacks slaughtered more than 3000.<sup>2</sup>

What's surprising is that over much of the last decade, nearly a third of the attacks – 31% – occurred here in Europe.<sup>3</sup> (The recent bombings in Turkey added another 60 lives to the grim total.)

And the danger grows daily. For al-Qaeda and its allies are pursuing ever-deadlier weapons.

In Afghanistan, arms inspectors poking around an abandoned Qaeda safe house discovered blueprints for a "Nagasaki bomb."<sup>4</sup>

Another team found lab equipment that would have enabled Osama bin Laden & Followers to produce chemical and biological weapons. A terrifying thought.<sup>5</sup>

Is there nothing we can do to stave off the nightmare of mass destruction?

Of course. But it begins with making people *understand*: our governments must work together to prevent the spread of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and take action against it.

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## There's no future in terrorism.

1. Vally Koubi and Thomas Bernauer, Unpublished paper, Center for Comparative and International Studies, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich Switzerland. 2. "Bali nightclub bombing kills 187..." nzmuslim.net; U.S. State Department, "Patterns of Global Terrorism," May 21, 2002; 3. Ibid. 4. Gary A. Ackerman and Jeffrey M. Bale, "Al-Qaeda and Weapons of Mass Destruction," Monterey Institute of International Studies (2002), p.1 5. Ibid., p. 2

# For a decade or so, Europe had more terrorist attacks than the Mideast. Will it happen again?

**Between 1991 and 2000, the world witnessed 3,810 terrorist attacks.**

**And nearly a third of them – 31% – occurred right here in Europe.<sup>1</sup>**

The focus of global terrorism has shifted elsewhere. For now. But as Europol and security agencies report, terrorist cells are alive and well – all over Europe.<sup>2</sup>

In Spain, the Basque separatists of ETA – the most active terrorist organization in Europe<sup>3</sup> – continues a campaign of violence that goes back decades.

But they're hardly alone.

In Strasbourg a year or so ago, police raided an al-Qaeda safe house. They found plans to attack the

European Parliament with sarin – the nerve gas used in the notorious Tokyo subway attack.<sup>4</sup>

Then came reports of two cyanide attack plots – in Rome and London.<sup>5</sup> And an Italian government aide was murdered, allegedly by the New Red Brigades, an offshoot of the gang that disrupted Italian life a generation ago.<sup>6</sup>

The point is, terrorism never really left Europe. So it's not just somebody else's problem in some remote part of the world.

It's our problem. The sooner we face up to it – and take forceful, deliberate but thoughtful measures to thwart it – the better for all of us.

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## **There's no future in terrorism.**

1. U.S. State Department statistics, cited by Vally Koubi and Thoms Bernauer, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, in unpublished paper. 2. Gunaratna, Inside Al Qaeda: Global Network of Terror, Penguin ed., p.165. See also Council on Foreign Relations, "Terrorism: Questions and Answers – Are there al-Qaeda cells in Europe?" 3. U.S. State Department, "West European Overview" 4. Ibid., p.174. 5. Gary A. Ackerman and Jeffrey M. Bale, "Al-Qaida and Weapons of Mass Destruction", Monterey Institute of International Studies, Dec. 12, 2002 6. U.S. State Department, "Patterns of Global Terrorism," April 30, 2003

# Since 1981, terrorists have killed 10,000 innocent civilians. And that's only for starters.

**Will they never be satisfied with the death and destruction they've caused?**

The world's terrorists have murdered a dismaying number of innocent civilians – nearly 10,000 since 1981! From Madrid to Riyadh to Bali.

Yet terrorists are actively pursuing weapons that will make their attacks even deadlier.

In a high-profile Egyptian trial in 1999, witnesses said al-Qaeda had acquired dangerous biological agents – including anthrax – and planned to weaponize them.<sup>2</sup>

Last year British authorities uncovered a terrorist plot to produce the lethal poison ricin. Just 3 mg. of ricin can kill an adult.

A ricin bomb would have

been catastrophic.<sup>3</sup>

Even more worrisome is the nuclear threat.

The world is awash in enriched plutonium fuel, at thousands of poorly guarded civilian reactors.<sup>4</sup> This could easily be converted into “suitcase bombs.” In Afghanistan, investigators found al-Qaeda had blueprints for such bombs.<sup>5</sup>

Indeed, Osama bin Laden may already have acquired nuclear warheads – and has said he will use them.<sup>6</sup>

Must we wait till the world's terrorists have such ghastly weapons? Or will civilized peoples – and their elected governments – work together to stop them?

The alternative is too awful to contemplate.

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## There's no future in terrorism.

1. U.S. State Department, “Patterns of Global Terrorism (2001)”, Appendix H. Add to this the substantial number of victims since 2001! 2. Gary A. Ackerman and Jeffrey M. Bale, “Al-Qaeda and Weapons of Mass Destruction,” Publication of Monterey Institute of International Studies. 3. Jeffrey M. Bale, et . al., “Ricin Found in London: An al-Qaeda Connection?”, CNS Reports, Monterey Institute of International Studies, p.1 4. Dr. James Clay Moltz, Testimony before Subcommittee on Europe and International Terrorism, Nonproliferation, etc., May 14, 2003. 5. Gary A. Ackerman and Jeffrey M. Bale, op. cit. 6. Ibid.

# Why would anybody run an “op ed” campaign against terrorism?

For several months, you’ve been reading our messages in these pages about the ugliness – and futility – of terrorism.<sup>1</sup>

And perhaps the simplest answer to why we’re running this campaign is: somebody *must*.

How can anybody with a conscience stand by, silent, as terrorists wage their ugly, bloody war against civilized society?

We must do something. This problem doesn’t belong to some distant part of the world. It’s *ours*.

The fact is, over much of the last decade, nearly a third of the world’s terrorist incidents – 31% – happened here in Europe.<sup>1</sup>

From brutal car bombings in Spain by the Basque separatists of ETA, to ghastly explosions in the Balkans engineered by al-Qaeda.<sup>2</sup>

Each incident brings pain, of course.

Still, it’s worth remembering that other attacks – with more death, more destruction – would have occurred, save for the timely action of security and police forces in a dozen countries.<sup>3</sup>

That, finally, is why we’re taking this opportunity to call attention to terrorism. To spotlight its dangers and its pointlessness. And to generate debate.

Not doing anything is a recipe for disaster.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. State Department, “Patterns of Global Terrorism,” May 21, 2002 <sup>2</sup> For background, see Council on Foreign Relations, Terrorism: Questions and Answers, “Basque Fatherland and ETA”; Centre for Peace in the Balkans (website), “Balkan wars and terrorist ties”. <sup>3</sup> Most thwarted attacks go unreported, for reasons of ongoing security. But for examples, see “Arrests may have thwarted terror attacks in Yemen, Bosnia,” Deutsche Presse-Agentur, Jan.24, 2002; and “Troops foil Yugoslav ‘terrorist attack’”, BBC News, Sept. 19, 2000.